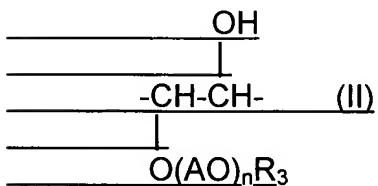
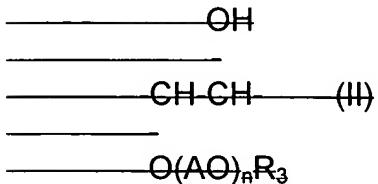


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** Nonionic compounds of the general formula RY (I), where R is a substituted aliphatic group containing 1-3 structure elements of the formula

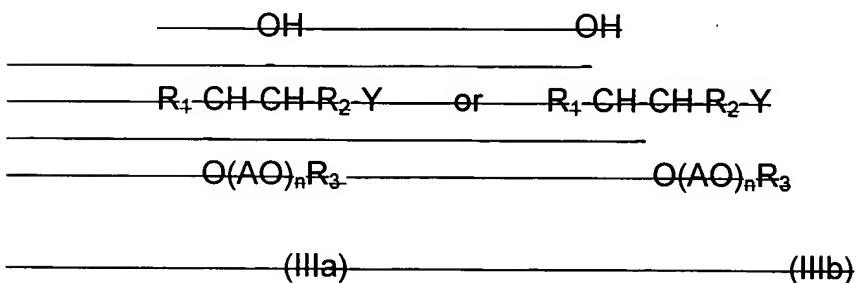


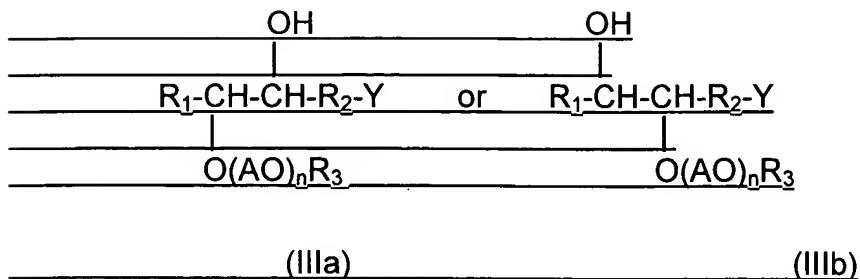
where the carbon atoms shown in the structure element are part of the aliphatic carbon skeleton of group R, which contains 8-24 carbon atoms, and Y is a nitrile group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.

- 2-10. **Cancelled.**

11. **(Previously Presented)** Nonionic compounds of claim 1 containing 1-2 structure elements according to formula (II).

12. **(Currently Amended)** Nonionic compounds of the general formulae





where R₁ is an aliphatic group, R₂ is an aliphatic radical, the sum of carbon atoms contained in R₁ and R₂ is between 9 and 19; Y is a nitrile group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30.

13. (Previously Presented) Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.
 14. (Previously Presented) Nonionic compounds according to claim 11 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.
 15. (Previously Presented) Nonionic compounds according to claim 12 where at least 50% of the AO groups are ethyleneoxy groups.
 16. (Previously Presented) Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.
 17. (Previously Presented) Nonionic compounds according to claim 11 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.
 18. (Previously Presented) Nonionic compounds according to claim 12 where the AO group is the ethyleneoxy group.

19. **(Previously Presented)** Nonionic compounds according to claim 1 where n is 3-20 and R₃ is methyl or ethyl.

20. **Cancelled.**

21. **Cancelled.**

22. **(Previously Presented)** A method of producing polyoxyalkylene nonionic compounds which comprises

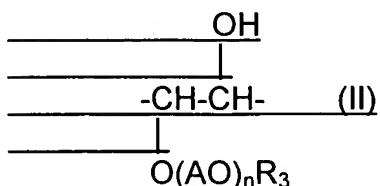
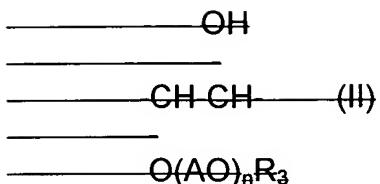
a) reacting an epoxidised nitrile containing 1-3 epoxy groups and a total of 8 to 24 carbon atoms with an alkyl blocked polyalkylene glycol having the formula R₃O(AO)_nH, where R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, in the presence of a catalyst, and optionally subjecting the product obtained to alkaline hydrogen peroxide.

23. **Cancelled.**

24. **(Previously Presented)** A surfactant composition which comprises a cleaning effective amount of at least one non-ionic compound of claim 1.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The surfactant composition of claim 24 adapted for the cleaning of hard surfaces, vehicle cleaning, bottle cleaning, machine dishwashing or machine washing of textiles.

26. **(Currently Amended)** A method of producing nonionic compounds of the general formula RY (I), where R is a substituted aliphatic group containing 1-3 structure elements of the formula



where the carbon atoms shown in the structure element are part of the aliphatic carbon skeleton of group R, which contains 8-24 carbon atoms, and Y is a nitrile or an amide group; R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, said method comprising:

reacting an epoxidised nitrile containing 1-3 epoxy groups and a total of 8 to 24 carbon atoms with an alkyl blocked polyalkylene glycol having the formula R₃O(AO)_nH, where R₃ is an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms; AO is an alkyleneoxy group containing 2-4 carbon atoms and n is a number between 1 and 30, in the presence of a catalyst, and optionally subjecting the product obtained to alkaline hydrogen peroxide.

27. **(Previously Presented)** A nonionic compound produced by the method of claim 26.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A surfactant composition which comprises a cleaning effective amount of at least one non-ionic compound of claim 27.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The surfactant composition of claim 28 adapted for the cleaning of hard surfaces, vehicle cleaning, bottle cleaning, machine dishwashing or machine washing of textiles.